

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Ducommun AeroStructures

#### New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Ducommun AeroStructures New York Realizes Cost Savings with Lean

##### Client Profile:

Ducommun AeroStructures New York [DAS NY] was founded as Dynabil Industries Inc. in 1977. DAS NY is an aerostructures precision sheetmetal and sub-assembly manufacturing company located in Coxsackie, New York. The company designs, engineers and manufactures the largest, most complex contoured aerostructure components in the aerospace industry. Their integrated processes include stretch-forming, thermal-forming, chemical milling, precision fabrication, machining, finishing, and integration of components into subassemblies. DAS NY employs 125 people.

##### Situation:

To ensure sustainable growth in the midst of challenging market conditions, DAS NY required development of Lean Six Sigma tool kits throughout the organization. The company contacted the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership's Center for Economic Growth (CEG), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist with Lean training.

##### Solution:

CEG provided Lean training for a number of DAS NY employees and led the company through the Six Sigma Green Belt Training program. The training process included completing four improvement projects. One specific project involved the delayed shipment of assemblies to the customer. Using a SIPOC (Suppliers, Inputs, Process, Outputs, Customers) analysis followed by a fishbone diagram, the root cause was identified. The corrective action was to define and employ a Supplier Kanban Program. A team, led by Supply Chain and Business Management, analyzed performance data and customer demand, identified key suppliers, and worked with them to develop the program. The program has been deployed with an aggressive schedule to grow the number of suppliers in the program. The assistance provided by CEG has resulted in positive impacts for the company.

##### Results:

- \* Realized \$60,000 in cost savings.
- \* Reduced cost for expedite fees by 100 percent.
- \* Increased on-time delivery by 20 percent.
- \* Reduced processing time by 45 percent.

##### Testimonial:

"The training we received from and through NYMEP's Center for Economic Growth has had, and continues to have a positive impact on customer satisfaction and process improvements that would not have been realized without the training."

Donald Cross, Manager, Continuous Improvement

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